

Greetings to all. Expanded operating privileges for entry-class licensees? Why? Mister Rippey, I first obtained an amateur license in 1972. Was learning the Morse code easy? No. Was learning about resistors, power supplies, resonant circuits, apogee, antennas and RF safety evaluations easy? No. Was it meant to be easy? NO.

Mister Rippey seems to have forgotten during his long absence from the h o b b y what all licensees should be fully aware of ... that earning an amateur radio operators license is a choice - and, a privilege - and that the incentive licensing system challenges you to prove your increased knowledge and abilities in order to gain more operating privileges.

Once an individual earns an entry-level amateur llicense and uses their knowledge and abilities to make contacts with like minded individuals via the publicly-owned radio spectrum, would it not increase your enjoyment of the hobby to contact others using different modes and frequencies than your current operating privileges permit? Excellent, as you have just chosen to take your first step into an even larger realm ... by upgrading.

Personally, I have a very fond recollection of my 11 month tenure as a Novice licensee. Gosh, look at all this theory, regulations and principles I will be required to learn in order to upgrade to General. A Morse code exam of 13 words per minute? It was an uphill tussle all the way. Was I glad I made the effort? A b s o l u t e l y .

Did I feel slighted or disappointed with my miniscule amount of operating spectrum/privileges of 80, 40 and 15 meters, CW o n l y , crystal-control for the transmitter, 75 watts maximum DC plate input power and a license that would expire only 365 days from when it was issued? Not in the l e a s t . In fact, quite the contrary ... I felt fortunate to have earned the privilege of being able to operate my own privately-owned, publicly-licensed amateur radio station.

Now, during my second tenure as a ham - since 1993 - I have felt honored to have been the first contact for several of my amateur radio brethren. As I tend to operate most often using Morse code, I feel especially gratified to have made contacts with these hams who decided to take the plunge and operate using a mode other than their "usual" one.

I could go on and on, no doubt boring some of you, with tales of reducing my first "homebrew" transmitter to a smoking heap of junk, installing my first homebrew antenna, of attending my first hamfest and winning the grand prize, et cetera, but i shan't do that.

Entry-class licensees, some words of wisdom from a long-time ham ... welcome to the best hobby in the world. Please, avail yourself of the opportunities which lie before you. There is an entire communtiy of individuals waiting to meet you. Build an antenna, build a rig, volunteer to help with any of the m a n y opportunities available to serve the public interest, convenience and necessity.

Mister Rippey, enjoy our wonderful hobby. I, for one, would be delighted to chat with you using a n y of your currently available privileges. Also, I look forward to meeting you using any of your expanded frequencies, after and providing you u p g r a d e . My opinion is that the FCC should unanimously reject your petition, RM-10354, as frivolous and self-serving.

Thank you for your time and, please ... encourage a friend to become a ham. Both you and they will find it to be a very rewarding experience. See you on the airwaves.

Best regards, Jay Jenkins,  
AA9KH

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